applications for STD/PCO year-wise is as under :

1990-91—NIL

1991-92—NIL

1992-93—NIL

1993-94—3451 (as on 31-3-94).

No records are maintained in respect of oldest pending cases separately.

(b) STD/PCO allotment Committees are being convened as frequently as possible to consider the pending applications for allotment of STD/PCOs.

Cost free telephones in hospitals in Arunachal Pradesh

5364 SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cost-free telephones provided in the hospitals of Arunachal Pradesh district-wise; and

(b) the number of such cost-free telephones illegally possessed by officers in their residence giving the district-wise; details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working hours in Postal Sub-divisions

5365 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) how many postal sub-divisions are there in India;

(b) what are the working hours of the office of sub-divisional inspector or Assistant Superintendent in sub-divisions;

(c) whether it is a fact that each sub-divisional inspector, Assistant Superintendent is having a work-load of more than 15 hours; and

(d) if not, how much work-load, maximum minimum is there with the Sub-Division ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 1797 (One thousand seven hundred ninety seven).

(b) The office of a sub-divisional Inspector/ ASP is a one-man office—the official having predominently touring duties, as he is required to spend on an average, more than 100 days on tour per annum. As such, no fixed office timings are observed—the official being treated more in the nature of a call duty staff.

(c) No Sir.

(d) the justification for the posts of Sub Divisional Inspectors/ASPOs is worked out on the basis of a formula evolved after a proper work study in consultation with the staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. A fraction of 0.5 and above is rounded off to the next integer. This is an ongoing process and the justification is reviewed periodically.

Payment of rent etc. for single-handed post offices

5366. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that entire amount of rent, electricity and sweeping chargs in respect of single handed post offices is paid by the department but consolidated amounts for 'A', 'B' and 'C' cities are paid as compensation and the rest of the amount has to be paid by the incumbents;

(b) if so, why such discrimination and why the Department is not hiring a building for the office of these sub-divisions as is done in the case of other post office buildings;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Staff Associations of Postal Inspectors are taking up the matter of providing departmental accommodation or pay the entire rent, electricity Charges etc. but the Government are not taking any action; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such inaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The entire amount of rent, electricity and sweeping charges in respect of single-handed Post Offices, including those located in 'A', 'B' & 'C' Cities is paid by the Department and no amount is paid by the incumbents.

(b) In view of (a) above, there is no discrimination while taking buildings on rent for accommodating post offices. The practice of accommodating office of sub-divisions in their residences was made in view of operative convenience and efficiency considering the nature of their work which involves extensive touring They are compensated with an allowance for keeping these offices in their residences. However, instructions have been issued to provide accommodation for Sub-Divisional Offices in Departmental buildings/departmentally rented buildings, wherever possible. Instructions have also been issued for providing accommodation for Sub Divisional Offices, wherever any construction of Departmental building is planned.

(c) Yes, Sir. Consolidated amount paid for accommodating the office in the residences is reviewed from time to time.

(d) In view of (c) above, this does not arise.

Clerical Assistance for Sub-Divisional Inspector/ Assistant Superintendent

5367. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any provisions to provide clearical assistance to Sub-Divisional Inspector/Assistant Superintendent in Posts and Telegraphs;

(b) if so, why it was withdrawn when the work was not reduced;

(c) whether there is any provision to provide compensation in lieu of excess work done by the Inspectors/Assistant Superintendents in Sub-Divisions; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to provide cleriacal assistance to these officers for excess work or to compensate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINITSRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. The standards for the creation of the Sub Divisional Officers include all type of work. Tentative instructions were issued in February 1990 that clerical assistance may be provided if the offices of Inspectors/ Assistant Superintending are located in the post office from the staff available with the Post Office.

(b) The Instructions of February 1990 were withdrawn in October 1991 as there was no proper assessment of the clerical assistance required as no post office staff was sanctioned for the purpose of providing assistance for the Inspectors/Asstt. Supdts.

(c) No, Sir. There is no provision for compensation in lieu of any excess work.

(d) The work of Sub Divisional Inspectors is of sporadic nature. There is no proposal to compensate them for occasional excess work that they may have either by clerical assistance or by other means.

Inspection by Inspector of Post Offices

5368. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Post Offices is lower in rank than an official of Higher Selection Grade-II in the Department of Posts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Inspectors are compelled to inspect/conduct enquiries against Higher Selection Grade-II officials;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to avoid a lower grade officer inspecting a higher grade officer's office; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and whether the present system will improve the efficiency of Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) To inspect/conduct the enquiries within his jurisdiction is primary duty of an Inspector of P.O. He also takes up enquiry as directed by